

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 05131 020921 Z

11

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 L-02 RSR-01 /056 W
----- 081473

R 020444 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
SECSTATE WASHDC 1964
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5131

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: MARCH 19 RTA CLASH WITH UNKNOWN LAOTIAN FORCE IN NAN

FOLLOWING TEL RPTD FOR YOUR INFO:

R 290755 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 1542
INFO AMCONSUL UDORN 168
CO DET III ARAG PHITS
COMUSMACTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CHIANG MAI 098

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: MARCH 19 RTA CLASH WITH UNKNOWN LAOTIAN FORCE IN NAN

L I M D I S

1. DURING VISIT TO CSOR 3/1 IN NAN, STAFF OFFICERS CAVALRY
DIVISION FORWARD SAID SUBJECT INCIDENT BEGAN ON MARCH 18 WHEN A
VILLAGER IN NORTH OF NAN NEAR THE BORDER WITH LAOS PRODUCED A
LETTER WHICH HE SAID HAD BEEN GIVEN HIM BY A PATHET LAO GROUP.
LETTER DEMANDED THAT ITAL- THAI COMPANY TURN OVER 12 MILLION BAHT
TO THE PL. ITAL- THAI IS CURRENTLY DOING A SURVEY FOR A ROAD IN
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THE NORTHERN PART OF NAN. THE CAVALRY DIVISION FORWARD LEARNED THE TIME AND PLACE OF A MEETING THE NEXT DAY BETWEEN THE PL GROUP AND ITAL- THAI OFFICIALS AND PREPARED AN AMBUSH. AT 11:00 A. M. ON THE 19 TH RTA CLASHED WITH 30-40 MAN GROUP KILLING ONE AND DRIVING OFF THE REST (QB028660).

2. CAVALRY DIVISION OFFICER STATED THAT THEY ORIGINALLY THOUGHT THE GROUP WAS PL (SEE SR 0079) BUT AFTER HAVING EXAMINED THE ABANDONED EQUIPMENT AND THE DEAD SOLDIER THEY CONDLUDED THAT THESE PEOPLE MIGHT BE FORCE ARMEE ROYALE (FAR) PERSONNEL. MOST OF THE EQUIPMENT WAS U. S. ISSUE , INCLUDING THE DEAD MAN' S CAP. THEY CAPTURED AN M-1 RIFLE (SERIAL NR 4696502, BOLT D28287-12 SAW10 B) . THE CAVALRY OFFICERS EMPHASIZED THAT THEY WERE STILL INVESTIGATING THE MATTER AND STATED THAT THIS GROUP MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN A GROUP OF FREE- BOOTERS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE CONFUSION IN LAOS FOLLOWING THE CEASEFIRE.

3. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO THE CAVALRY THEY CHECKED WITH THE RATAKHUN FORCES ON MARCH 18 ACROSS THE FRONTIER TO SEE IF THERE WAS A FAR UNIT IN THE AREA. THE RATAKHUN PEOPLE SAID THERE WAS NOT. THIS LENDS CREDENCE TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS PARTICULAR GROUP WAS IN BUSINESS FOR ITSELF AND HAD HEARD THAT ITAL- THAI WAS PERHAPS EASY PICKINGS. MONTGOMERY UNGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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